

Question on notice no. 130

Portfolio question number: NIAA130

2023-24 Budget estimates

Finance and Public Administration Committee, Cross Portfolio Indigenous matters

Senator Lidia Thorpe: asked the National Indigenous Australians Agency on 14 June 2023—

(1. In the budget, \$97.7 million were allocated over three years from 2022-23 to support the development of a New Jobs Program trial to replace the CDP. In answer to questions by Senator O'Sullivan, you mentioned that the New Jobs Program exists of 3 different trials.

- a. Can you please outline all three trials in detail?
2. At what stage are these three trials at the moment?
3. Why are details about these trials not being made public on the Department website or elsewhere?
4. You are launching a trial of 200 jobs in selected regions. Can you please provide a list of regions and how many jobs are being created per region?
5. On what basis have these regions been selected?
6. Given that we are almost one year into the three year funded period for the New Jobs Program, how much of the funding has so far been spent and can you please provide a detailed breakup of what it has been spent on?
7. What evaluation will these trials undergo to analyse their outcomes and effectiveness and when are these evaluations planned for?

Answer —

See attached.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2023-2024

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: National Indigenous Australians Agency
Topic: New Jobs Program

Senator: Lidia Thorpe

Question reference number: 0130

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday 14 July 2023

Number of pages: 3

Question:

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7. What evaluation will these trials undergo to analyse their outcomes and effectiveness and when are these evaluations planned for?

Answer:

The Government has committed to a range of different trials to test ideas and inform the design of a new program to replace the Community Development Program. Information on the trials is available on the National Indigenous Australians Agency’s (NIAA) website: www.niaa.gov.au/job-trials.

Trialling Pathways to Real Jobs

The Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP hosted a Remote Employment Roundtable on 31 August 2022 leading into the National Jobs and Skills Summit, and announced that CDP providers can re-direct 25% of their funding to work with remote communities to trial new approaches to securing real jobs for participants.

Further detail on Trialling Pathways to Real Jobs is in Supplementary Budget Estimates 2022-2023, Question on Notice 0868 *CDP & NJP – Program Variation*).

Early progress is promising, with over 1,300 participants being directly placed in jobs as a result of the first phase of the trials and overall job placements also increasing significantly.

A summary of approved proposals by region is available on the NIAA website. A summary of the outcomes and learnings from Trialling Pathways will be published on the NIAA website in the coming months.

New Jobs Program Trial

As part of the 2022-23 October Budget, the Government announced it would provide \$9.4 million over three years to establish a trial for up to 200 jobs in selected regions with thin labour markets. This trial will support increased economic opportunities in remote Australia through connecting CDP participants to local jobs.

It will provide community-based organisations and local governments the opportunity to develop local approaches to jobs that support community priorities and test approaches to inform a new program.

Information on the trial, including the Forecast Opportunity for the grant has been available on the NIAA website and Grant Connect since December 2022.

The Grant Opportunity Guidelines will be released by late August 2023. The NIAA is undertaking information sessions to document community needs. Interested organisations must register their interest with the NIAA Regional Office and discuss their proposal before applying.

The New Jobs Program Trial will target regions:

- where there are thin labour markets
- that reflect a variety of locations
- with the highest CDP participant caseloads
- that fall within the enhanced income management regions
- where the trial approach can be delivered in a diverse context.

To date there has been nil administered expenditure on the Trial.

Ngaanyatjarra Lands Trial

The Ngaanyatjarra Lands Trials (in CDP Region 3) will trial new approaches to remote employment services to test ideas and understand barriers to employment in very remote regions of Australia.

From 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024, the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Trials will include the Remote Engagement Program Trial and the Ngaanyatjarra Engagement and Employment Trial. Both trials will allow the development of tailored approaches to remote employment, including trialling an incentive for eligible participants to build skills, supporting them to find and maintain employment, and contribute to their community.

Further details will be published on the NIAA website as the trial progresses.

Monitoring, Evidence and Learnings

A Monitoring, Evidence and Learnings (MEL) analysis of the CDP Trialling Pathways to Real Jobs, New Jobs Program Trial, community based trial, and community consultations is underway. Key evidence, learnings and insights will be considered to inform the design of the new program.